

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal	)	
Service	)	CC Docket No. 96-45
	)	
Forward-Looking Cost Mechanism	)	
for High Cost Support for Non-Rural LECs	)	CC Docket No. 97-160

**ORDER**

**Adopted: April 8, 2004**

**Released: April 8, 2004**

By the Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division:

1. On December 18, 1998, SBC Communications Inc. (SBC) filed a Petition for Clarification and Reconsideration (Petition) in the above-captioned proceeding.<sup>1</sup> In its petition, SBC sought clarification and reconsideration of the Commission's Fifth Universal Service Report and Order.<sup>2</sup> On April 7, 2004, SBC submitted a request to withdraw the Petition.<sup>3</sup> We grant the request to withdraw and dismiss the Petition.

2. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to the authority delegated under sections 0.91 and 0.291 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, that the request to withdraw the SBC's Petition for Clarification and Reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding IS GRANTED.

3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to sections 0.91 and 0.291 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, that SBC's Petition for Clarification and Reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding IS DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

William Scher, Assistant Chief  
Telecommunications Access Policy Division  
Wireline Competition Bureau

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<sup>1</sup> SBC Communications, Inc. Petition for Clarification and Reconsideration, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-160 (filed December 18, 1998).

<sup>2</sup> *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Forward-Looking Mechanism for High Cost Support for Non-Rural LECs*, Fifth Report and Order, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-160, 13 FCC Red 21323 (1998) (Fifth Universal Service Report and Order).

<sup>3</sup> SBC Communications Inc. Withdrawal of Petition for Clarification and Reconsideration (filed April 7, 2004).